

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



**Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
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The Minutes of the Arlington Cemetery Commission
August 14, 2013

Present: Commissioners Michele Hassler, Gloria Turkall and William McCarthy, Deputy Town Manager, Andrew Flanagan, Director of Public Works, Michael Rademacher, Operations Manager of Public Works, James Dodge, Chief Robert Jefferson, Arlington Fire Dept., Jim Hassler, and Stephen Harrington

The meeting began at 9:16 a.m.

1. Resident Stephen Harrington came before the commission and informed the Chairperson Michele Hassler that he would be audio taping the meeting. The Chair denied his request out of concern for how he would represent the information, proceedings and situations discussed if he used the tape in other mediums. He refused the Chair's request, would not always answer questions either at all or appropriately and Town Counsel was called twice to not only check on the Commissions' rights during a meeting, but to help decide if the meeting should proceed due to the nature of his behavior. When he would not comply with the Chair's and Commissioner Bill McCarthy's request again to not audio/video tape the meeting he was asked to leave if he could not act cooperatively and answer questions appropriately. He informed the Chair that he would not leave unless he was removed. At this time, 9:20 am, the Chair stepped out and asked Chief Jefferson who was present to call the police to have them at the meeting incase Mr. Harrington continued his concerning behavior and needed to be removed. This action was in accordance with MGL Chapter 30, section 20F. Deputy Town Manager Andrew Flanagan was also present for this call. Once the police arrived the parties returned to the meeting which resumed at 9:26am.

Board of Cemetery Commissioners
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William F. McCarthy
Gloria A. Turkall

At this time the Chair allowed Mr. Harrington to resume his audio/videotaping of the meeting, though stating again he did not have her permission and it could not be used for any official records, which Mr. Harrington replied, " This is just for my own personal use".

2. Mr. Harrington presented his concerns regarding traffic that uses the cemetery as a cut through and his concern with the increased parking on Sachem Ave. as the construction of the Safety Building continues, National Grid is working on Mystic St. and a home at the corner of Sachem and Mystic Streets is in the midst of renovations... Mr. Harrington requested a "barrier of some sort" be put across Sachem Ave. to stop the flow of traffic. He suggested some barrels or cones be put in place. He discussed the hardship he feels this places on his ability to visit his family's gravesite on Sachem Ave. and that he feels the parking is disrespectful. The Commissioners tried to answer his questions and give explanations for the current situation, which it is hoped will be resolved as soon as the work on Mystic St. finishes.
3. Chief Jefferson independently addressed the Commission to discuss the position of the Fire Dept. as to the parking of the safety vehicles in the cemetery during state mandated training sessions at the Arlington Safety Building across the street. He also discussed the measures taken by employees of the building to find parking elsewhere. The Commissioners and all in attendance understand the difficulty of the situation and look forward to the resolution of this less than ideal, but temporary, situation.
4. The Commission voted yes to the request by Treasurer Stephen Gilligan to address and sign the Cemetery bond of \$400,000 for the new water system in the cemetery. The bond was sent to the Treasurer.
5. Correspondence was reviewed by Treasurer Stephen Gilligan on recommendations for trust fund expenditures.
6. The request by Mr. Harrington for the cemetery revenue numbers thus far of 2013 was addressed, noting that information had to be given to him by August 22, 2013 related to his "official request" by email to the Chair dated August 12, 2013, and in accordance with the MA laws time frame of responding within 10 days. Deputy Town Manager Flanagan was also aware of request and response. Jean was to get the information together Mr. Harrington was seeking and send it to him by Monday, August 19, 2013.

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7. Corrected minutes for July were approved.
8. 1 deed was signed
9. September's meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 9am.
10. The meeting ended at 10:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Smith
Michele Hassler- Chairperson

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